**Books about residential schools are made everywhere but there is one that is really good!**

*Indian Horse* and *Sugar Falls* both write about **residential schools but which one is better at exploring the legacy of the schools?** The book, *Indian Horse*, which was written by Richard Waganese is a story about residential schools and was set in the 1960’s in Canada. This was back when the whites came into Canada and started to teach all the First Nations what is right. They mentally, physically, and emotionally abused the children if they did something bad or wrong. The protagonist, Saul, talks about everything that goes on inside residential schools and how he is able to cope with that. He is a young Indian boy and in that era of time it was hard for them and that is why it is so interesting. The graphic novel, *Sugar Falls*, is an interesting representation of also what happened in the residential schools. Much like Indian Horse, it is also about a person who goes through a residential school. She is abused as well and how she was able to cope with it. The only difference is, Indian Horse is able to give way more detail because it is a book. ***Indian Horse*, was much better at explaining everything that happened in residential schools compared to *Sugar Falls*. *Indian Horse* was able to create an interesting story about residential schools, using a lot of detail for the characters and about the abuse. However *Sugar Falls* was able to explain a lot to a certain extent, mainly because it was a graphic novel therefor you are able to see more in the pictures. Ultimately *Indian Horse* is obviously the better book because it is a novel and in a novel, one can have way more details to allow the reader to understand.**

Firstly,*Indian Horse* was able to explore the topic of residential schools very well, using a lot of detail about residential schools: “St. Jerome’s took all the light from my world” (Waganese, 43). The way he describes everything and the residential schools just amazes anyone who reads it and it is much better then *Sugar Falls*. He is able to describe the beatings that other kids go through very well all throughout chapter 12. One child that Saul was talking about was a guy named Shane Big Canoe, he was a mean boy: “They brought him to St. Germ’s wrapped in ropes”(51). He explained how Shane was getting beat by the priest and nuns: “We heard slaps, the sack of fists on flesh, the sound of wrestling and the crash of furniture. Then silence”(51). The way he describes the way he was beat is just very disturbing and using that short sentence just added the icing on top. Another person he talked about was a girl named Sheila Jack. She was shy and frightened, all she only ever knew her grandmother. She is always the one to make mistakes. He says, “They made her memorize the catechism and recite endlessly at the front of the classroom. If she made a mistake they struck her with a ruler, a strap or a hand made her start over”(50/51). This girl went through something that no child should ever go through, this detail just show’s how good this book really is. Another reason this book is better is the usage of a sport (hockey) to help cope in these times of hardship. Richard Wagamese used a sport to help Saul cope with his struggles in residential schools, that is a really good way to help a lot of readers to better connect with the book as many people play sports. At first Saul had no idea what hockey was, he did not even know how to skate. But “Father Leboutilier brought me hockey books and answered all my questions. His passion for the game was contagious”(57). Father Leboutilier introduced Saul to a whole new world, a hockey world. He quickly fell in love with the sport: “Hockey night in Canada was the personification of magic… I begged to play after that. I begged to be taught to skate”(59). Hockey soon became his outlet, his way to be free from the madness of residential schools.

However *Sugar Falls* was not able to create such a big picture even though they are able to use pictures. The way Betsy describes everything that happens inside of residential schools was very poor because of these reasons. She didn’t explain the abuse very well: “Sister Marie tried in that cold water, in that darkness, to get the ‘dirt’ off. Ow. Please don’t rub so hard”(David, 19). In the *Indian Horse* he was able to use detail and figurative language to create a really nice picture of what’s happening. But here David had to use pictures and plain writing to create this part of residential schools. She also talked about everyday and how it goes, she says, “We ate the same thing everyday”(David, 21). She doesn’t give enough detail, like ‘what did you eat, is it good nutritious food?’ In this example you can really see how un described this book really is. Her coping mechanism is good as well but nothing compared to *Indian Horse.* All she did was remember her dad and his words. She also remembered a nice place from her past which is *Sugar Falls.* She says, “I remembered everything. I remember Sugar falls. I remember the words of my father”(36). She just remembered stuff. That doesn’t seem like the greatest way for somebody to cope with residential schools. Also, a lot of people were able to connect with the hockey but the reader isn’t really able to connect to her coping mechanism.

In conclusion, *Indian Horse* is the better book because it was able to create a better picture of residential schools and it was able to give more detail as well. *Indian Horse* was able to describe the beatings a lot better and they were able to describe Saul’s adventure with a lot of detail and it was a really good image of what happens in residential schools. *Sugar Falls* did not do such a great job even though they were able to use pictures, they did not use detail in the writing and some pictures just were not enough. All together both the books were able to explain Residential schools in their own way using two different tactics.